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Affordable homes starts: Mayor set to fall almost 6,000 short this financial year, latest figures show

- Mayor was handed £3.1bn to provide 90,000 affordable homes starts by 2021
- Aimed to start 12,500-16,500 homes this financial year to keep on track
- Figures released this morning show only 6,725 homes started in 11 months
- Total shortfall so far of 5,775
- Has so far started 2,000 fewer affordable homes than last year

Sadiq Khan is set to fall woefully short of his affordable homes target this financial year despite receiving £3.1bn from central government to get building in London, figures released this morning (Thursday) show.

The government wanted the Mayor to deliver 90,000 affordable homes starts by 2021 when it handed over the cash in 2016.

To meet the target, the Mayor aimed to start between 12,500 and 16,500 homes in the first year, with more being delivered towards the end of the four-year cycle.

But housing figures released by the GLA this morning show just 6,725 affordable homes have been started in the first 11 months of the scheme, leaving the Mayor set for a first-year shortfall of almost 6,000 homes.

The number of affordable homes started in this financial year are currently over 2,000 short of the 8,935 started last financial year.

In Tuesday's Spring Statement, the Government promised the Mayor a further £1.67billion for a further 27,000 affordable homes by March 2022.

London Assembly member Andrew Boff said: "This first-year target of 12,500 homes was set by Mayor Khan himself so he needs to give an explanation as to how and why he has fallen so woefully short.

"Perhaps the worst thing about it is he's so far started 2,000 fewer homes than he did last year - so things are going backwards.

"There are plenty of things the Mayor could be doing to improve the rate of build, but he remains deaf to suggestions, such as speeding up the use of modular housing, building on brownfield land and freeing up more public land for development.

“These latest figures raise worrying questions about where this leaves the overall target. If we are seeing such drastic shortfalls in the first 11 months, is the Mayor going to get anywhere near hitting 90,000 homes by 2021?”

ENDS.

Notes

- Andrew Boff is the GLA Conservatives’ housing spokesman
- Data below from the Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee report from December 2017. The table at the top shows what they need to be delivering each year to meet the 90,000 target:

https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s67007/Appendix%20%20-%20Affordable%20housing%20report_End%20of%20Sept%202017.pdf

**Budget Monitoring Sub Committee
Housing and Land Directorate – Affordable Housing Quarterly Update**

Data to end September 2017

1) Affordable Housing target to achieve 90k affordable starts on site by 2021

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Total	Achieved
Actual starts	7,467	8,935	428					
Expected starts			12,500 - 16,500*	14,000- 19,000*	17,000 - 19,000*	18,000 - 25,000*	90,000	16,830

* annual targets for current and future years are expressed as ranges to reflect the fact that discussions will be ongoing with strategic partners over delivery profiles for their programmes. The lower end of the ranges represent a level of delivery with greater certainty attached, but they are expected to be exceeded across the time period through ongoing work with partners and additional delivery through continuous bidding

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.

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